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RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 1272
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RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 4690
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 4207
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC
RHMFIUU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 005068

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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USDOC FOR ITA/MAC/OSA/LDROKER/ASTERN/KRUDD
DEPT OF ENERGY FOR A/S KHARBERT, TCUTLER, CZAMUDA, RLUHAR
DEPT PASS TO USTR CLILIENFELD/AADLER
DEPT PASS TO TREASURY FOR OFFICE OF SOUTH ASIA ABAUKOL
TREASURY PASS TO FRB SAN FRANCISCO/TERESA CURRAN
STATE FOR SCA/INS AND EB/TRA JEFFREY HORWITZ AND TOM ENGLE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NEW DELHI WEEKLY ECON OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 19-23, 2007

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11. (U) Below is a compilation of Economic highlights from Embassy
New Delhi for the week of November 19-23, 2007.

INDIAN PATENT FILINGS TO BE
AVAILABLE ON-LINE

12. (U) Business daily The Mint reported Wednesday that the
Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has decided to make
patent filings available on-line, free of cost. Digitized versions
of these filings should be available on-line some time next year.
This comes on the heels of a move by the GOI in July to allow
on-line patent applications.

FURTHER PROTESTS AGAINST ORGANIZED
RETAIL IN JANUARY

13. (U) India FDI Watch, an NGO that helped orchestrate the August 9
"Quit Retail" protests and the large protest on October 10 in
Mumbai, is planning coordinated protests in most of India's major
cities in January. The NGO will set a date in December, but their
representatives said it will likely be January 10, 12, or 26. FDI
Watch also plans a nationwide trader strike for February. The
professed objective of both these actions would to demonstrate that
there is a structured, nationwide movement against organized retail
and that not all protests are simply spontaneous, according to FDI
Watch campaign coordinator Dharmendra Kumar.

KINGFISHER PLANS BANGALORE-SAN FRANCISCO
DIRECT FLIGHT

14. (SBU) Kingfisher Airlines announced on November 19 that it plans
to fly direct daily flights from Bangalore to San Francisco starting

April 2008. The airline will use its Airbus A340 aircraft for the route. Kingfisher's Network Planning Manager told Consulate Chennai that the airline has also applied to the U.S. Department of Transportation for permission to fly into New York's JFK airport. She also said that Kingfisher plans to use Bangalore as its southern hub, using it to connect its domestic routes with its international flights.

REALITY BITES REALTY
IN BANGALORE

15. (SBU) Realty markets in Bangalore are showing signs of a slowdown, with appreciation in capital values down to 1.8 percent in January-October 2007, compared with 4.7 percent during the same period in 2006. The chief at one prominent realty firm told Consulate Chennai that the city's central business district and newly constituted industrial areas, which saw a 42 percent price spike in 2006, saw average prices increase by 12 percent this year. A Bangalore Chamber of Commerce and Industry told the Consulate that the city's crumbling infrastructure and an unstable political situation was deterring investments into Bangalore. He estimates that these factors led the city to lose more than USD 1 billion in potential investments over the past year, as potential investors opted for other cities in India or elsewhere.

ISRO TESTS OPERATIONAL
CRYOGENIC ENGINE

16. (SBU) The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) announced the successful testing of an operational cryogenic engine on November 17. ISRO's Director of International Cooperation told Consulate Chennai that ISRO would use the engine on a Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) slated for blastoff in August 2008. He also said that the successful development of the engine was a personal triumph for ISRO's chairman, who was involved in the early stages of

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its development.

17. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov/p/sa/newdelhi>

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